

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:KEHONAN:SGG  
APPROVED BY NEA:WRCRAWFORD  
S/S - O LFLEISCHER  
-----015660 040420Z /21  
R 040339Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168924

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, EG, IS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: FRG EMBOFFS CALLED ON NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SECRETARY SAUNDERS ON JUNE 22 FOR REVIEW OF MOST RECENT ME DEVELOPMENTS END SUMMARY.

2. FRG MINISTER HANSEN ACCOMPANIED BY 1ST SECRETARY SCHNITTGER CALLED ON ASST. SEC. SAUNDERS FOR REVIEW OF CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS SAUNDERS NOTED THAT WE HAD RECEIVED THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO THE TWO QUESTIONS WE HAD SUBMITTED TO THEM IN APRIL CONCERNING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. DURING THIS PERIOD WE HAD ALSO BEEN WORKING WITH THE EGYPTIANS WITH A VIEW TOWARDS THEIR SUBMITTING A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL, WOULD BE A BASIS ON WHICH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE RESUMED. OUR PRESENT PLAN IS FOR THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FONMINS TO  
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MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN LONDON AT SOME POINT NEXT MONTH. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE EGYPTIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT A FULL PROPOSAL SO QUICKLY, SAUNDERS SAID THAT WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD IN FACT BE ABLE TO DO SO.

3. TURNING TO THE ISRAELI 'RESPONSES, SAUNDERS SAID THAT

WE WERE NOT REALLY SUPRISED BY THE GOI RESPONSES, BUT NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A GENUINE DEBATE OVER THEM WITHIN ISRAEL AND WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. WE NOW KNOW DEFINITELY THAT IT IS THE POSITION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN INDEFINITELY ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WHEREAS BEFORE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET SUCH A CLEAR STATEMENT FROM THEM. WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE TO GET DOWN TO THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES AND TO ALLOW A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES WITHIN ISRAEL.

4. HANSEN ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE AN "AMERICAN PROPOSAL" AT SOME POINT IN TIME. SAUNDERS POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN OUR INTENTION TO SUBMIT AN AMERICAN PLAN. INSTEAD, AT POINTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE MIGHT PUT FORWARD DRAFT LANGUAGE WHICH TOOK A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINTS. THIS WOULD NOT BE IN THE SENSE OF SPLITTING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO BUT WOULD BE AIMED AT MEETING THE BASIC CONCERNS OF THE TWO PARTIES AS REFLECTED IN THEIR PROPOSALS. ANY U.S. LANGUAGE WOULD GROW OUT OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND WOULD REFLECT THE IDEAS OF BOTH SIDES. THIS IS THE REASON IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EGYPTIANS SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSAL.

5. SAUNDERS NOTED THAT THE BASIC POINT WE ARE MAKING TO THE ISRAELIS IS THAT U.S. VITAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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GETTING ME DISPUTE RESOLVED AT THIS TIME. BOTH WE AND THE EGYPTIANS HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO GO VERY FAR AND BE VERY FLEXIBLE IN MEETING ISRAEL'S SECURITY CONCERNS, BUT WE SEPARATE ISRAELI SECURITY FROM ISRAEL'S RETAINING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE TWO DO NOT NECESSARILY GO TOGETHER AND WE BELIEVE THE SECURITY PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED IN WAYS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE CONTINUED PERMANENT ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. EMBOFF NOTED A RECENT ARTICLE WHICH PROPOSED ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND ASKED IF WE HAD GIVEN THIS ANY CONSIDERATION. SAUNDERS SAID THAT WE HAD NOT, BUT THAT WE HAD GIVEN SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO POSSIBLE SECURITY GUARANTEES BY THE US. THIS WHOLE QUESTION OF GUARANTEES WILL LIKELY COME UP IN GREATER DETAIL THE CLOSER WE GET TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT. FOR THE PRESENT WE HAVE NOT HAD FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON US GUARANTEES. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** REPORTS, PEACE TALKS  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014